(d) NCERT intensified its efforts in the field of environment education at all levels of schools education. It brought out important curricular materials, teacher training modules and supplementary teaching materials in environment education. A large number of non-print materials, like films and video programmes were also prepared for teaching environment and training teachers in environment education in schools. All these initiatives were aimed at capacity building at the State level and helping States to re-orient their school curricula in the field of environment education. UGC has also taken several measures to encourage/promote and popularizes the environment oriented courses through directions/ suggestion and financial assistance.

Allocation of funds to propagate reason and science

436. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry allocate funds to propagate "reason and science" and wage a war against "superstition" and "magic";

(b) if so, the details of the funds allocated for the purpose annually for the last three years; and

(c) the results so far achieved in this field during this period alongwith details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Indiresan Committee Report

437. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

• (a) whether it is a fact that P.V. Indiresan Committee on the changing of the funding pattern for the NTs has submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are the major recommendations of the Committee;

(c) whether the academicians are also representatives and suggesting for changing the funding pattern to the IITs in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that Indiresan Committee recommended that 70 per cent of the plan funding should be utilised for infrastructure development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. In pursuance to the decision of the Council of NTs, an expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. P.V. Indiresan consisting of Shri.Hari S. Bhartia, Chairman, Board of Governors, I IT, Kanpur, Prof. R.S. Sirohi, Director, IIT, Delhi, Prof. R. Natarajan, former Director, IIT, Madras and presently Chairman, AICTE, Prof. Ashok Chandra, former Special Secretary, Department of Secondary and Higher Education and others also was constituted to review funding of NTs.

Based on the experience of implementation of the Block Grant Scheme and international trends, the Committee recommended a shift to formula based non-plan funding for NTs with outcome focus. Broad principle being that similar activities should be funded at similar rates and any variation should be based on sound and justifiable reasons.

The Committee also recommended that plan grants for infrastructure renewal or expansion should be based on institutes perspective plans and their performance in reaching milestones as per those plans. The Committee recommended a performance-linked grant to promote initiative and competition.

Mid-Day Meal Scheme

438. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the introduction of Mid-Day Meal Scheme, in schools in different States, there has been marked increase in number of school going children;

(b) if so, the increase and percentage of increase in school enrolments registered in different States;

(c) whether in certain States cash incentives have been given to. poor children for universalisation of primary education; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard, and the cost involved and the success achieved therein ?